

§ 84.45 Code of ethics for Government service.

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 7301 note, each agency shall display, in appropriate areas of any Federal Government building in which at least 20 civilians are regularly employed by the agency, copies of the following Code of Ethics for Government Service:

CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Any person in Government service should:

- I. Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to country above loyalty to persons, party, or Government department.
- II. Uphold the Constitution, laws, and regulations of the United States and of all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.
- III. Give a full day's labor for a full day's pay; giving earnest effort and best thought to the performance of duties.
- IV. Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished.
- V. Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not; and never accept, for himself or herself or for family members, favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of governmental duties.
- VI. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of office, since a Government employee has no private word which can be binding on public duty.
- VII. Engage in no business with the Government, either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of governmental duties.
- VIII. Never use any information gained confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means of making private profit.
- IX. Expose corruption wherever discovered.
- X. Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.

§ 84.46 DoD human goals.

On April 17, 1990, DoD established human goals. See Appendix C of this part.

§ 84.47 Ethical values.

(a) *General.* Ethics are standards by which one should act based on values. Values are core beliefs such as duty, honor, and integrity that motivate attitudes and actions. Not all values are ethical values (integrity is; happiness is not). Ethical values relate to what is right and wrong and thus take precedence

over non-ethical values when making ethical decisions. DoD employees should carefully consider ethical values when making decisions as part of official duties.

(b) *Primary ethical values*—(1) *Honesty.* Being truthful, straightforward and candid are aspects of honesty.

(i) Truthfulness is required. Deceptions are easily uncovered and usually are. Lies erode credibility and undermine public confidence. Untruths told for seemingly altruistic reasons (to prevent hurt feelings, to promote good will, etc.) are nonetheless resented by the recipients.

(ii) Straightforwardness adds frankness to truthfulness and is usually necessary to promote public confidence and to ensure effective, efficient conduct of Federal Government operations. Truths that are presented in such a way as to lead recipients to confusion, misinterpretation or inaccurate conclusions are not productive. Such indirect deceptions can promote ill-will and erode openness, especially when there is an expectation of frankness.

(iii) Candor is the forthright offering of unrequested information. It is necessary in accordance with the gravity of the situation and the nature of the relationships. Candor is required when a reasonable person would feel betrayed if the information were withheld. In some circumstances, silence is dishonest, yet in other circumstances, disclosing information would be wrong and perhaps unlawful.

(2) *Integrity.* Being faithful to one's convictions is part of integrity. Following principles, acting with honor, maintaining independent judgment and performing duties with impartiality help to maintain integrity and avoid conflicts of interest and hypocrisy.

(3) *Loyalty.* There are many synonyms for loyalty: fidelity, faithfulness, allegiance, devotion and fealty. Loyalty is the bond that holds the nation and the Federal Government together and the balm against dissension and conflict. It is not blind obedience or unquestioning acceptance of the status quo. Loyalty requires careful balancing among various interests, values and institutions in the interest of harmony and cohesion.